

## *PRESS RELEASE*



# The Cleveland Museum of Art

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### THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART

The Cleveland Museum of Art, located in the heart of the city's cultural area, is one of America's major general art museums. Its constantly growing collection, now numbering more than 45,000 objects, is a distinguished representation of the highest level of achievement in the arts of all cultures and periods. The galleries present, in historical sequence wherever possible, the arts of ancient Egypt, Greece and Rome; Europe; America; Africa; the Near East; India and Southeast Asia; China, Japan, and Korea; and the pre-Columbian Americas. The Medieval European and the Oriental art collections are regarded as among the finest in the Western world.

A private corporation not-for-profit, the Museum exists to collect, preserve, exhibit, study, and interpret works of art. The Museum's staff of about 250 people, headed by Director Sherman E. Lee, plans and organizes all exhibitions, acquisitions, programs, and activities. The Museum is governed by a board of trustees, whose current president is James H. Dempsey, Jr.

Special exhibitions, organized by the Museum or circulated by other institutions, are presented throughout the year, with programs of films, lectures, and musical performances. The Museum also offers an extensive schedule of art classes, gallery talks, and related activities for adults and young people. The Extensions Division provides small exhibitions to schools, libraries, and other community institutions.

A research library of more than 110,000 books and periodicals, with a slide and photograph library, enables the Museum staff to undertake the scholarly research that is central to the Museum's purposes. Through a joint program in

art history with neighboring Case Western Reserve University, the Museum offers these research facilities to university students and faculty; Museum curators teach university courses and all art history classes are held in the Museum.

A three-story education wing, designed by architects Marcel Breuer and Hamilton Smith, was added to the Museum in 1970. It contains two large exhibition galleries providing more than 11,000 square feet of space for special exhibitions, a 750-seat auditorium, two 150-seat lecture and recital halls, ten classrooms, three audio-visual rooms, and offices for the Museum's education and musical arts departments.

Museum publications include the Bulletin, a monthly journal of scholarly articles on works in the collection; the News & Calendar, a bi-monthly members' publication; catalogs of special exhibitions; and books on special subjects by Museum curators and other scholars. Art books, postcards, and slides and photographs of works in the collections can be purchased at the sales desk.

The Museum has flourished in part because of the unusually generous gifts, bequests, endowments, and contributions of its supporters. Among the benefactors, Hinman B. Hurlbut, John Huntington, Horace Kelley, and J. H. Wade provided land and funds for its initial establishment. Mrs. Liberty E. Holden gave the first major gift, a collection of Italian Renaissance paintings; J. H. Wade, and the William H. Marlatts in subsequent years, began major art purchase funds. John L. Severance started a major art purchase fund and bequeathed a decorative arts collection; Leonard C. Hanna, Jr. presented an extraordinary bequest of funds and a collection of great 19th and 20th century paintings. Since 1916, when the Museum opened, many others have provided both art purchase and operating funds.

Membership in The Cleveland Museum of Art is available to any interested person.

The Museum is open to the public six days a week, and admission is always free.